LIMITED

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ORIGINAL : FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE FAR EAST.

CAMBODIA, LAOS, THAILAND AND VIET-NAM

Committee for Coordination of Investigations
of the Lower Mekong Basin.

END OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE FRENCH ICHTHYOLOGICAL MISSION AND STUDY ON POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS OF FISHING TECHNOLOGY ON THE GREAT LAKE AND THE TONLE SAP IN CONNEXION WITH THE PROJECT OF A DAM ON THE TONLE SAP.

Working Programme

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Working Programme

OCTOBER:

In cooperation with the Service des pêchos, preparation of a survey on the fishing methods (a copy of the lists of question submitted to the Service des pêches is given in Annex).

Diagram: fishing sites on the Tonlé Sap and the Great Lake.

Information pertaining to the dates at which fishing is practised at the different fishing sites.

NOVEMBER TO JANUARY :

During the months from November to January, fishing activity is mainly centered around the Tonlé Sap with the days and dams of the different arms. We shall intentionally leave out fishing on the prcks below. Prek Dam, as it is not concerned with the effects of the dam. As far as we know the only spot where fishing begins in December is site No. 4, Kompong Thom on the Great Lake. It is a special case, interesting in this sense that fishing is done at a height of seven metres in the flooded forests, whereas on the other sites, fishing only begins at a height of three metres. It will accordingly be given special consideration.

I. - CONTROL OF FISHING ON THE TONLE SAP :

a/ - Geographical location of fishing systems.

b/ - Days: On each line, a transverse profile and stream velocity, with distribution and percentage of fish varieties for each day.

Stream velocities will be measured in collaboration with Mr. GUISCAFRE. These measurements will have to be made at peak and lowest fish travelling periods, so as to complement the information already gathered on ebb-period migrations in relation to lunar phases.

/c/...

c/ - Dams: The fishing dams located on the arms of the Tonlé Sap will also have to be controlled, as well as those on the important preks tributary of the Tonlé Sap.

II. - BOTANICAL SURVEY :

Mr. SCHMID's programme calls for constituting a team with Mr. Fily in order to help that mission in the execution of its work, by giving it advice and guidance in regions of particular interest such as the delta of Stung Battambang, Tonlé Schmar at Peam Beng and the artificial dam of Phnom Preas.

III. - SPECIAL OBSERVATIONS :

a/ - Samplings of water for physico-chemical analysis purposes will be continued, as well as the study of the oecological distribution of fish-life during the ebbing period, that is until water has withdrawn from the flooded forest area.

b/ - Observations on the Trey Pruol fish kept in ponds since December 1961 for the purposes of ichthyological control of maturation in closed water will be periodically continued.

The data to be gathered from the above operations are essential for completing the basic information already available. On the other hand this final stage of the programme will give three more months for stuying the cycle of fishing technology.

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The first survey of the implications of the construction of the dam on the fish being completed, it is necessary to find out what effects the construction of the dam will have on fishing itself. For it does not help to have a good productionif that production cannot be used. The modification of the water surface during the low-water season will necessarily modify the fishing methods on the Great Lake, as well as run-of-river fishing systems.

The survey aims at gaining knowledge of the present fishing conditions and determining the modifications that will result from the building of the dam as well as to submit any appropriate suggestions to the Service des pêches as regards the future operation of fishing on the Great Lake (modification of the fishing system, reserves and regulations).

/This study...

This study being closely connected with economic questions we also could submit useful data to the financial services of Cambodia.

JANUARY - REBRUARY :

a) - Continuation of observations on the Tonlé Sap: days, dams, etc.

A permanent contact with the Service des Pêches for the investigation on the operation and numbering of fishing systems; interviewing fishermen with a view to ascertaining the varieties of fish caught.

BEGINNING OF OBSERVATIONS
ON THE GREAT LAKE

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FROM MARCH TO JUNE ON THE GREAT LAKE:

The survey will continue on the Great Lake and will chiefly bear on the fishing sites on the edge of the floodad forest and large scale drag-net fishing.

The Botanical Mission will, as scheduled, have to continue its study of the flood phenomenon.

Samples of plancton will be taken on the Tonlé Sap from Quatre Bras to the Lake; they will complement those already taken at the Snoc-Trou bar.

FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER :

Fishing being closed, investigations will be restricted to household fishing, the only kind permitted during that period.

FROM OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER :

The processing of the data thus gathered will be as follows:

a/ - description of the systems used, including a sketch;

/ - method of operation with the dates between which they are used and their specialization;

c/ - the yield for each individual fishing system;

d/ - percentage of industrial and artisanal systems;

/e/...

e/ - approximate total yield of the fishing on the Great Lake and the Tonlé Sap according to the fishing seasons;

f/ - fluctuation of fish prices in relation with the importance of catches and the place where the fish was caught.

For this part of our investigation, we shall require the help of the Service des pêches.

g/ - Rough evaluation of the fish sold as:

1.- Fresh fish;
2.- Smoked fish;
3.- Salt and smoked fish;
4.- Fish paste;

with the list of fish varieties chiefly used for each category.

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CONCLUSIONS AS REGARDS THE BUILDING OF A DAM

a/ - Fishing systems that will have to disappear.

b/ - Fishing systems that will have to be modified especially on the fishing sites located on the edge of the Lake.

c/ - Suggestion for the creation of fish reserves on the edges of the lake.

d/ - Discussion, in cooperation with the Service des Pêches on possible modifications of the regulations concerning fishing methods and the dates of the opening and close of the fishing season.

e/ - Examination, in collaboration with the Service des Pêches, of the possibilities as regards the creation of fishing ports with processing installations (salt fish, dried fish, smoked fish) as well as storage facilities for export purposes, and carrying of live fish by waterways transportation.

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The execution of the above programme will be carried out by Mr. FILY in the absence of Mr. d'Aubenton from October to March 1963.

/In October...

In October, Mr. FILY will in addition to the normal working programme have to conduct soundings on the Great Lake for the benefit of the Sedimentation Mission.

We fully concur with the suggestion of the Director of the Service des Pêches to second an inspector of the fisheries to the Technological Mission for training purposes. He might be given a fellowship upon the completion of the mission to enable him to receive further training in that field.

LIST OF QUESTIONS

Investigation on Fishing Systems

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I.- INDUSTRIAL FISHING :

Description of the fishing site:

a) - location

b) - fishing systems, with their dimensions

c) - date of the opening of the season

d) - working over a certain period (how it is affected by the lowering of the water level.

e) - main fish varieties, with dates

f) - tonnage for each variety

II.- ARTISANAL OR HOUSEHOLD FISHING :

a) - location

b) - fishing systems

c) - numbers

d) - importance of yield, with dates

e) - main varieties caught